THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT PR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Average of Ophthalmologists, Optometrists and Optionans in the country

799. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that for one billion population of the country, there are only 10,000 Opthalmologists, 5,000 Optometrists and 20,000 Optionans, which is less than the world average;

(b) if so, the national and world average; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken to fill the gap?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. P. THAKUR): (a) It is estimated that there are over 11000 eye surgeons and over 6000 Opththalmic Assistants in India. No. of optometrists and opticians is not known.

(b) The eye surgeon population ratio in India is 1 eye surgeon per lakh population which is better as compared to other developing countries. In developed countries, 1 eye surgeon is available for less than 1 lakh population.

(c) Under the Vision 2020: The Right to Sight initiative, the plan of action for India is being formulated which includes appropriate Human Resource Development for Eye Care at various levels.

Report of Vision of Improvement Expert Working Council

800. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the report of Vision of Improvement Expert Working Council stating that 40 per cent of the youth in Delhi cannot see clearly;

(b) if so, whether Government would get a similar survey conducted in all parts of the country; and

(c) what strategies are being evolved to tackle the vision problem particularly of the youth?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. P. THAKUR): (a) No, Sir.